

### REMARKS

This continuation application and Preliminary Amendment have been filed in order to present new claims and for examination. A true copy of the parent application Serial No. 10/084,542 with a copy of the signed Declaration filed with the application on February 26, 2002 is enclosed.

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a) and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, applicant respectfully submits herewith patents of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.55 and 1.56.

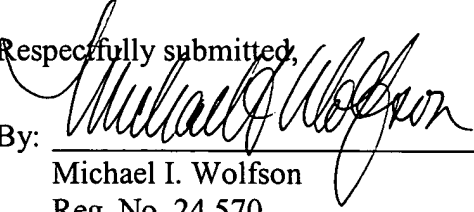
A PTO Form PTO/SB/08A identifying the citations filed and cited in the parent application is annexed. Copies of the references in the parent file are not enclosed pursuant to MPEP 609 III A(2).

The Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the patents referred to herein is "prior art" unless specifically designated as such. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action. Accordingly, no fee is due pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

For the reasons set forth herein and in the prior application, the undersigned respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-11 presented herewith for examination are patentable over the references of record in the parent application and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to examine the application at an early date with a view towards issuing a favorable application thereon. If upon review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view towards resolving the outstanding issues.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael I. Wolfson  
Reg. No. 24,570  
Attorney for Applicant  
REED SMITH LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 521-5400